



CENTER FOR  
COMMUNITY ACTION AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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CENTRO DE  
ACCIÓN COMUNITARIA  
Y JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL

*Curated by Janet B.*

[ccaiej.org](http://ccaiej.org)



# Who is CCAEJ?

The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAIEJ) is a *progressive, base-building, non-profit organization* bringing communities together to find opportunities for cooperation, agreement and problem solving in improving their social and natural environment. Using the lens of environmental health to achieve social change, we work within communities to develop and sustain democratically based, participatory decision-making that promotes involvement of a diverse segment of the community in ways that empower the community.





# Our Roots



The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice's struggle for clean air and healthy communities began in the Jurupa Valley community of Glen Avon in 1978 when residents began their efforts to shutdown the Stringfellow Acid Pit toxic waste site.

The organization's founder Penny Newman led community members in a decades long fight that resulted in the state awarding over \$114 million in reparations for residents and the establishment of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), better known as the Superfund.



Following the inroads accomplished through Stringfellow, environmental leaders acknowledged the need to create a community resource that working class, communities of color could turn to in the midst of pollution crises. In 1993, CCAEJ became an official nonprofit organization founded on this principle, and on the belief that residents not only have a right to participate in decisions that directly affect them, but also a responsibility to provide solutions to clean up their environment and health.



# How do we define environmental justice?

Our environment is our built, social, and natural surroundings that impact our lives everyday.

**WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR**, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to insure environmental justice to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

## The Principles of Environmental Justice (EJ)

- 1) **Environmental Justice** affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) **Environmental Justice** demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
- 3) **Environmental Justice** mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
- 4) **Environmental Justice** calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
- 5) **Environmental Justice** affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.
- 6) **Environmental Justice** demands the cessation of the production of all toxic, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.
- 7) **Environmental Justice** demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.
- 8) **Environmental Justice** affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the rights of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.
- 9) **Environmental Justice** protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.
- 10) **Environmental Justice** considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.
- 11) **Environmental Justice** must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.
- 12) **Environmental Justice** affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.
- 13) **Environmental Justice** calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.
- 14) **Environmental Justice** opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.
- 15) **Environmental Justice** opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.
- 16) **Environmental Justice** calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.
- 17) **Environmental Justice** requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to insure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

**More info on Environmental Justice can be found online at [www.ejnet.org/ej](http://www.ejnet.org/ej)**

*Delegates to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington DC, drafted and adopted 17 principles of Environmental Justice. Since then, The Principles have served as a defining document for the growing grassroots movement for environmental justice.*

“Once you start making these linkages, you can no longer do just tree planting. When you start working with the environment seriously, the whole arena comes: human rights, women’s rights, environmental rights, children’s rights...everybody’s rights”

- Dr. Wangari Maathai, Founder of the Green Belt Movement, Environmental Activist





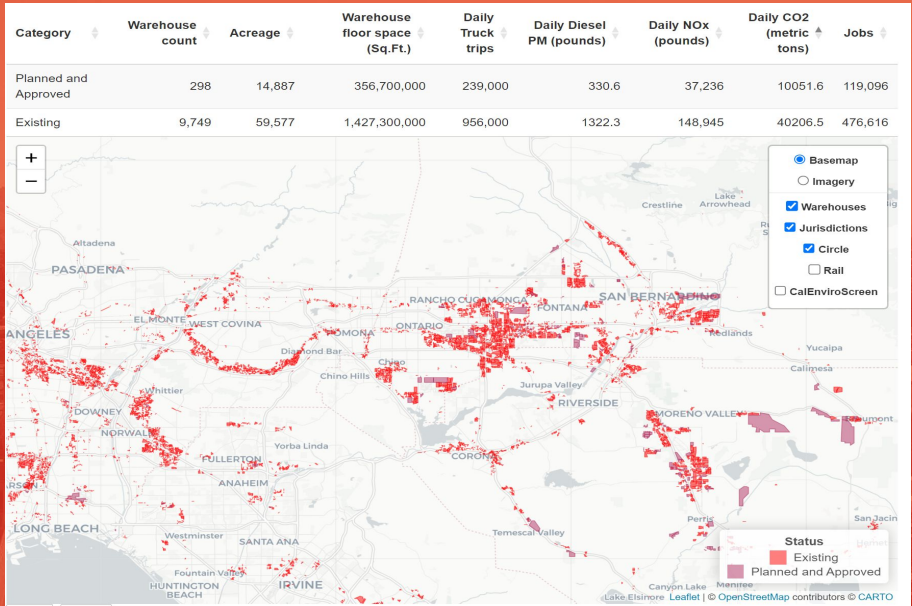
# Environmental Justice Issues in the IE



The Inland Valley Region of Southern California has long faced EJ issues that impact our marginalized, BIPOC, low income communities.

Main EJ issues include: air quality, water quality, and land use.

- **Air Quality:** Logistics Industry, warehousing, railyards, airports, freeways
- **Water quality:** PFAS, forever chemicals, military bases, toxic runoff
- **Land Use:** Lack of open space/green spaces, preservation of natural areas, land zoning



An estimated 40% of the nation's consumer goods come through the region, **Bloomberg News** reported, and the logistics industry employed almost 1 in 8 Inland workers as of early 2021.



# Impacts of Air Pollution

- **Particulate Matter (PM) is:**
  - **Generated by fossil fuel emissions**
  - **A key element of understanding vehicle pollution**
  - **One of the main concerns about warehousing in our communities**
- **Children are more vulnerable to lung damage due to inhaling PM**
  - **Lung growth and development of air sacs happen at accelerated rates until age 2-3, then slow through age 8**
  - **Children breathe at a faster rate than adults, up to 60/minute in infants and slowing to 20/minute after age 12**
  - **Bennet and Zeman study, particle deposits 35% greater in children**
- **Exposure to PM cause increase in respiratory symptoms**
  - **British study of 4,400 children - exposure to PM at home connected to cough without cold**
  - **12 Community California Study - followed children over 8-year period, found reduced longer-term lung function associated with increased PM exposure**
- **Vulnerability to bacterial infection and development of COPD in later life**



# Fighting for Sustainability in our Communities



*Our focus is on organizing to build community power and leadership through community education, civic engagement and policy.*

Recent campaigns:

- Warehouse Indirect Source Rule - Successfully campaigned to make our local air quality management district hold warehouses accountable for their emissions.
- Railyard Indirect Source Rule - This past month the EPA voted to allow local agencies to regulate railyards and this past week our local agency voted to force railyards to regulate their emissions.
- Local Warehouse Moratoriums - Fought and won in cities like Colton, Jurupa Valley, and Redlands to stop all warehouse development and allow for studies on the impacts of the logistics industry
- AB 1000 - ASM Eloise Reyes sponsored a bill to create a 1000 ft buffer between warehouse development and sensitive receptors like homes, schools, hospitals, parks, etc.
- Region in Crisis - Demand letter to the governor to place a 2 year moratorium on warehouse development the entire Inland Valley region to allow for comprehensive studies on the cumulative impacts of the industry on our communities.





# Community Action Teams CATs/ Equipos de Acción Comunitaria



- Community Action Teams CATs aims to bring community together to improve their social and natural environment. We do this by developing indigenous leadership, community organizing through strategic campaigns and building a base of community power.
- Equipos de acción comunitaria CATs tiene como objetivo unir a la comunidad para mejorar su entorno social y natural. Hacemos esto desarrollando el liderazgo indigena, la organización comunitaria a través de campañas estratégicas y la construcción de una base de poder comunitario.

On July 27th, SFCCC and CCAEJ held a press conference in Fontana to update community members on the development on the Slover and Oleander Warehouse Project, as well as recognize and celebrate the decision Attorney General Ray Bonta's office and The Sierra Club to file lawsuits against the City of Fontana challenging its approval. This project would blatantly violate CEQA standards and will jeopardize the health of Fontana's students and families. "Fontana residents shouldn't have to choose between economic development and clean air. They deserve both."

- Attorney General Rob Bonta





# Any questions?/¿Alguna pregunta?



Thank you and please stay connected!  
Gracias y por favor mantente conectado!



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